## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

 $0 \hbox{-} 0 \hbox{-}$ 

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE

**PROCEEDINGS** 

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
CONSENT ORDER

RE: LINNETTE JOHNSON, R.N.

:

License No. R-021959,

:

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Linnette Johnson, R.N. ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R-021959; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on November 9, 2004, came to the South Dakota Board of Nursing office and disclosed on her Nursing Renewal Application that she had a mental illness and believed it would endanger the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care. As a result of her illness, Licensee's signed a Voluntary Refrain from Practice on November 16, 2004, and later placed her license on inactive status on December 1, 2004.

Subsequent to this, Licensee has provided information to the Board of Nursing that she has been hospitalized numerous times related to her mental health condition. On August 4, 2006, Licensee again appeared at the South Dakota Board of Nursing office to discuss her voluntary refrain and her inactive license. An Informal Meeting, scheduled for

August 23, 2006, needed to be canceled as the Board was advised that the Licensee was an in-patient at the Yankton State Hospital. In lieu of the Informal Meeting, a conference call with Licensee and her mental health counselor was held on September 15, 2006. The Licensee does not feel ready to go back into nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("the Board") has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners; and

WHEREAS, Licensee agrees that the matters under investigation would be of a nature that would constitute grounds for the discipline of her license to practice nursing in South Dakota under SDCL § 36-9-49; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee agrees that he enters into this Voluntary Surrender

Consent Order voluntarily and without duress or compulsion, in full understanding of the
legal consequences of this document and her rights; therefore,

## IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.
- 2. That the Licensee, on November 9, 2004, came to the South Dakota Board of Nursing office and disclosed on her Nursing Renewal Application that she had a

mental illness and believed it would endanger the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care. As a result of her illness, Licensee's signed a Voluntary Refrain from Practice on November 16, 2004, and later placed her license on inactive status on December 1, 2004.

Subsequent to this. Licensee has provided information to the Board of Nursing that she has been hospitalized numerous times related to her mental health condition. On August 4, 2006, Licensee again appeared at the South Dakota Board of Nursing office to discuss her voluntary refrain and her inactive license. An Informal Meeting, scheduled for August 23, 2006, needed to be canceled as the Board was advised that the Licensee was an in-patient at the Yankton State Hospital. In lieu of the Informal Meeting, a conference call with Licensee and her mental health counselor was held on September 15, 2006. The Licensee does not feel ready to go back into nursing practice and now intends to leave the profession of nursing as a registered nurse.

3. That the Licensee has been given an opportunity to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice, and is aware of her right to a hearing in this matter, and of her rights under the United States and South Dakota Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or any other rights under said Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee also agrees that the Board's Executive Secretary or her designee may present this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order to the Board and disclose

to the Board all items of her investigation, including, but not limited to, any communications with Licensee.

- 4. That the Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota and her privilege to practice nursing pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be surrendered and the Board shall suspend said license for an indefinite period from the date of this Order. Licensee may apply to have her license reinstated for good cause shown.
- 5. That nothing in this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order should imply that the Licensee shall be reinstated. Licensee recognizes that the reinstatement terms, as well as the requirements for reinstatement, are at the sole discretion of the Board.
- 6. That if the Licensee requests reinstatement, Licensee has the burden of presenting information showing that Licensee's license should be reinstated.
- 7. That it is further stipulated and agreed that this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is being entered into voluntarily by the Licensee and without threats or coercion and is entered into after the Licensee has been given ample opportunity to consider these matters and to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice and that the Licensee has a full understanding of the legal consequences of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order and of the Licensee's rights to a formal hearing on these matters, which rights are hereby waived by the signing of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.

8. That the Board may enter an Order consistent with the terms of this Stipulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is entered into and is respectfully submitted to the Board with the request that the Board adopt its terms as an Order of the Board in the above matter.

Dated this 24 day of October, 2006.

Linnette Johnson, R.N., Licensee

and issued its Order as follows:

adopted shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 9th day of 10th.,

2006, by vote of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director South Dakota Board of Nursing